

Amendments to the Specification

On page 1, after the title, and before the section titled "Field of the Invention", please insert the following new section:

Cross-Reference to Related Application

This application is a continuation application from U.S. Serial No. 10/086,963, filed February 28, 2002, now allowed.

On page 4, please make the following correction in paragraph [0019] to correct an inadvertent grammatical error. This correction is not made for any reason substantially related to patentability.

[0019]In order to practice the method of the invention, an aqueous fracturing fluid is first prepared by blending a hydratable polymer into an aqueous fluid. The aqueous fluid could be, for example, water, brine, aqueous based foams or water-alcohol mixtures. Any suitable mixing apparatus may be used for this procedure. In the case of batch mixing, the hydratable polymer and the aqueous fluid are blended for a period of time sufficient to form a hydrated solution. The hydratable polymer that is useful in the present invention can be, but are is not necessarily limited to, any of the hydratable polysaccharides having galactose or mannose monosaccharide components and are familiar to those in the well service industry. These polysaccharides are capable of gelling in the presence of a crosslinking agent to form a gelled base fluid, although as noted it is not necessary that the polymer be crosslinked. For instance, suitable hydratable polysaccharides are the galactomannan gums, guar and derivatized guar, as non-limiting examples. Specific examples are guar gum and guar gum derivatives. The preferred gelling agents are guar gum, hydroxypropyl guar and carboxymethyl hydroxypropyl guar. The most preferred hydratable polymers for the present invention are guar gum and carboxymethyl hydroxypropyl guar and hydroxypropyl guar, in one non-limiting case.